

**Collins, Carly**

**From:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 04, 2009 1:36 PM  
**To:** Lilley, Bliss; Collins, Carly  
**Subject:** FW: CAPX2020

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**From:** mlbarthel@comcast.net [mailto:mlbarthel@comcast.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2009 11:26 PM  
**To:** Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC  
**Subject:** CAPX2020

Until 2 years ago I was not aware of the beauty southern Minnesota offered. My daughter went to school at Winona State College from 2002 through 2007, and we always enjoyed the drive from the Twin Cities, seeing the bluffs that you could experience from HWY 61. But it was not until a good friend of mine bought land in the Houston, MN area that I saw the deep, lush beauty that the Root River area had to offer.

Our friends bought land in Sather Valley a few years ago. We spent the weekend there, just two weeks ago, and had a chance to be part of nature. We could see how they had fallen in love with all the beauty nature has to offer from the hills, spring fed streams, agriculture and some of the most active wildlife I have seen. There was everything from trout filled streams, deer, coyote, wild turkey, birds that came in every shape, size and color and even the mooing of the cows from across the fields. We sat by the fire after dark and listen to mother nature talking (coyotes were calling from hill to hill) and watched the stars flutter in the night. (And all without a visit from the infamous state bird, the mesquite).

During the day we had a chance to see the beauty of the area with a tube ride down the Root River. After spending the weekend we could see why they decided to move down south to live in Sather Valley.

That was just two weeks ago. Today I heard for the first time about the proposed CAPX2020 that could literally go right over the farm house my friends currently live in. I never professed to be a Rhode Scholar, and have no clue on just how much damage a project like this would have on humans and animal life; but, I have been near these large power lines and have heard the noise they generate and know they do not belong in any scenic corridors that the state of Minnesota has to offer. As citizens, and/or leaders, in our community it should be our responsibility to preserve the beauty of the area for years to come. We already have an Interstate road systems designed to move vehicles efficiently across the nation. If it is necessary to transfer power across the country, why would we not use the same paths to efficiently transfer power from point A to point B?

Please reconsider any notion to interfere with the natural habitat of the area. I am sure if you are honest with yourself, you know the impact is severe to many families, farmers, nature lovers as well as the health of humans and wildlife. There has got to be better alternatives!!

Sincerely,

Larry Barthel  
Maple Grove, MN

**I-264-001**

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to human and livestock health and safety with regard to EMF will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

**I-264-002**

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts from noise and to the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**I-264-003**

Your comment has been noted. Alternatives to the project will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

**I-264-001**  
**I-264-002**

**I-264-003**